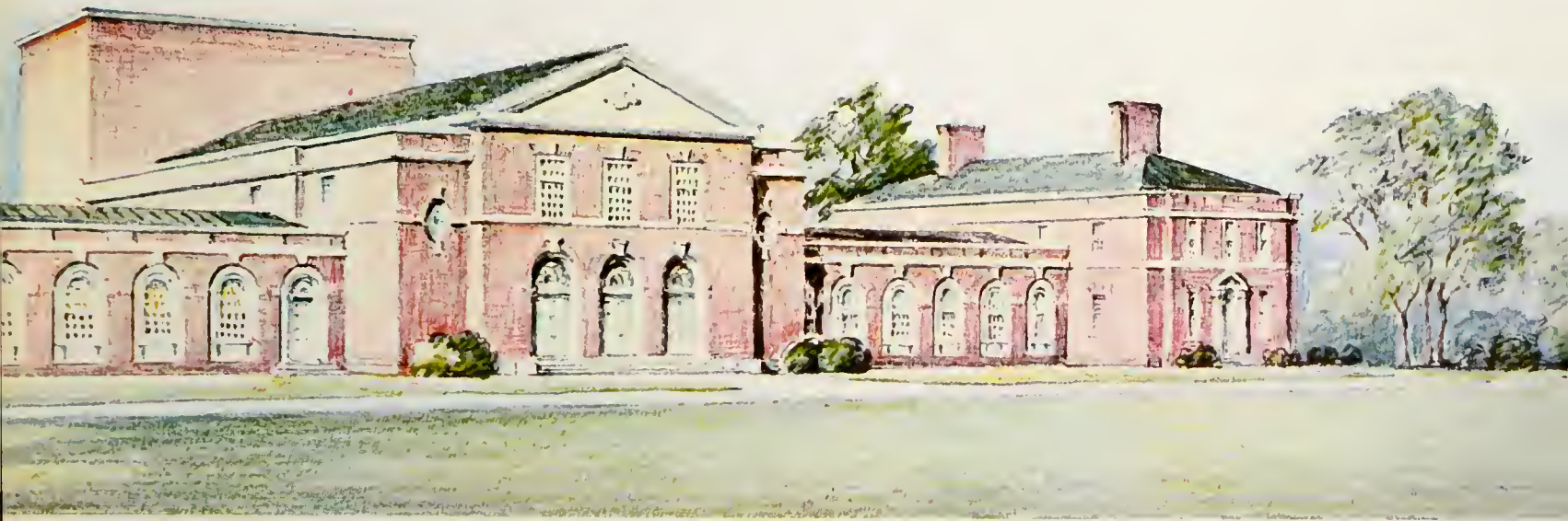


SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



AUDITORIUM-FINE ARTS CENTER

Archives

LD

7251


.S92

S935

1960

C.3





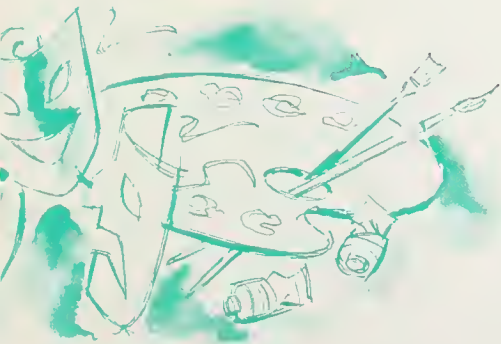
an auditorium-fine arts center

for SWEET BRIAR

a two-fold need

the new auditorium-fine arts center will fill a two-fold need:

1. It will provide a common meeting place where the entire college community may gather for concerts, lectures, plays, symposiums, and such regular college functions as Opening Convocation, Founders' Day, and Commencement.
2. It will greatly enhance the academic work of the college by providing adequate facilities for instruction in the fine arts—in drama, art, music, and creative writing.



for half a century . . .

Sweet Briar has never had a proper Auditorium. Yet the need for this building was evident half a century ago. When the first plans for the new college were drawn by Ralph Adams Cram in 1901, they called for sixteen main buildings, one of them an auditorium with facilities for music and drama.

But dormitories, classroom buildings, and a refectory had to come first. A library and a gymnasium were also essential. When the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center, the Science Building, the Chapel, and an Administration Building are added, the original plan for sixteen buildings will be realized.

For half a century, the college has used various substitutes for the Auditorium it has always needed. Depending upon the size of the audience, events requiring an auditorium have been housed in the Chapel, in Fletcher Theatre, or in the Gymnasium:



The Choir sings from the stage in Manson. It's a tight squeeze, with no room left over for the director.



A lighting crew at work in Fletcher. (No one is proud of the splintered seats.)

Student Government meetings are still held in the Chapel of Manson Hall. Since it has only 420 seats, many girls have to sit in the aisles or on window ledges.



A Student Government meeting in the Chapel of Manson Hall. All seats taken, so stand up or sit in the aisles.

Student plays are given in the 200-seat theatre of Fletcher Hall. Classrooms upstairs are used for make-up and dressing rooms. Almost every production is sold out, and students without seats must either stand up or come to rehearsals.



Paint & Patches rehearses "The Women" on the crowded stage of Fletcher Theatre.



President Anne Pannell introduces Sweet Briar's "Symposium on Modern Science and Human Values" in the Gymnasium. The basketball motif adds little to the décor.



An audience in the Gym may look interested, but no one would suppose them to be comfortable.

The frequent use of the Gymnasium for all large convocations interferes with the work of the Physical Education Department and subjects the audience to collapsible wooden chairs, poor acoustics, and make-shift lighting.

As the college has grown, its need for an auditorium has grown too. With the addition of William Bland Dew Dormitory in 1956, Sweet Briar's enrollment increased to 525 students. The need is now greater than ever before. It will be met by the new Auditorium-Fine Arts Center.

the academic need

The Auditorium-Fine Arts Center will materially improve the college's instruction in all the creative arts. Classes in drama, art, music, and creative writing are poorly housed at present.



A music class in the old Music Building listens to Beethoven perched on radiators.

for example . . .

The Music Department uses a small frame building constructed during World War I for the Y.W.C.A. and later used as the college library. Some music classes overflow into the same room of Manson Hall which serves as a Chapel.



An art class in Academic's top-floor studio; or, Ars vincit omnia.

The office of the drama instructor is in the Gymnasium, but plays are staged in Fletcher Hall, where a narrow corridor serves as "back stage" and where a window serves as a stage entrance.

Instruction in art is carried on in the Library as well as in Academic and Fletcher.

The Writers' Workshop is sandwiched between a faculty apartment and the Nursery School, making quiet concentration impossible.

With the completion of the new Fine Arts Center, all these departments will be grouped together in modern, soundproofed, and well equipped studios, offices, and classrooms. The improvement this will permit in the college's instruction can easily be imagined.

At the same time, much-needed space in Academic, Fletcher, and the Library will be released for other departments. (Who knows what use may next be found for the old Music Building?)

New faculty offices in the Fine Arts Center will relieve another pressing academic need. At present, many offices are shared by two or three members of the faculty—an especially difficult arrangement for student conferences. In several cases, where access to the office is through a classroom, faculty members have to enter and leave through a balcony window when classes are in session—a situation remembered wryly by generations of alumnae.

The new offices in the Fine Arts Center will enable the faculty, in their many student conferences, to do a much more effective job of teaching and counseling.



For student conferences, professors sharing a tiny office sometimes flip a coin to see who goes first.

for the community . . .



As the only institution of higher education in Virginia's Amherst County, Sweet Briar College has a unique opportunity, and obligation, to extend its cultural resources to residents of the neighboring community. Service to the citizens of Amherst County has been a tradition at Sweet Briar since its founding. Tuition scholarships (\$1,400 per year) are always given to any Amherst County girl who qualifies for admission, and nearly 150 of them have taken advantage of this provision.

The community is always welcome at public lectures and concerts, symposiums and plays. However, as student enrollment has grown, there has been less and less room for other guests at these affairs. The new Auditorium will enable the college to reinforce a long tradition of hospitality and service to its community, bringing many cultural attractions to a wider audience.

what will the new auditorium look like?

Where will it be located?

How many seats will it have?

How big a stage?

how about the fine arts center ?

What will it look like?

How will it be connected to the Auditorium?

These are some of the questions before the Committee on Architectural Matters of the Board of Overseers. In resolving them, this Board committee has been aided by the recommendations of the campus Auditorium Committee, which has been studying the problems involved for years. To design the new building, the Board selected the Lynchburg architectural firm of Clark, Nexsen & Owen. This firm is now working on plans for the building. They will be subject to the approval or revision of the Board of Overseers, but even the preliminary studies shown here provide some exciting—if still tentative—answers to such questions.



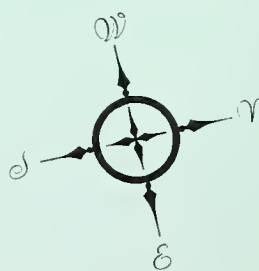
the auditorium-fine arts center—another view from the architect's preliminary drawings, showing single-story wings.

Architects for the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center are Clark, Nexsen & Owen, of Lynchburg. The firm is headed by Pendleton Clark, FAIA, who has been consulting architect to the college for more than thirty years. Mr. Clark was supervising architect when Reid, Fletcher, and the Mary Helen Cochran Library, designed by Cram & Ferguson, were being built, and his office designed the Mary Harley Infirmary, the Book Shop, and the Daisy Williams Gymnasium.



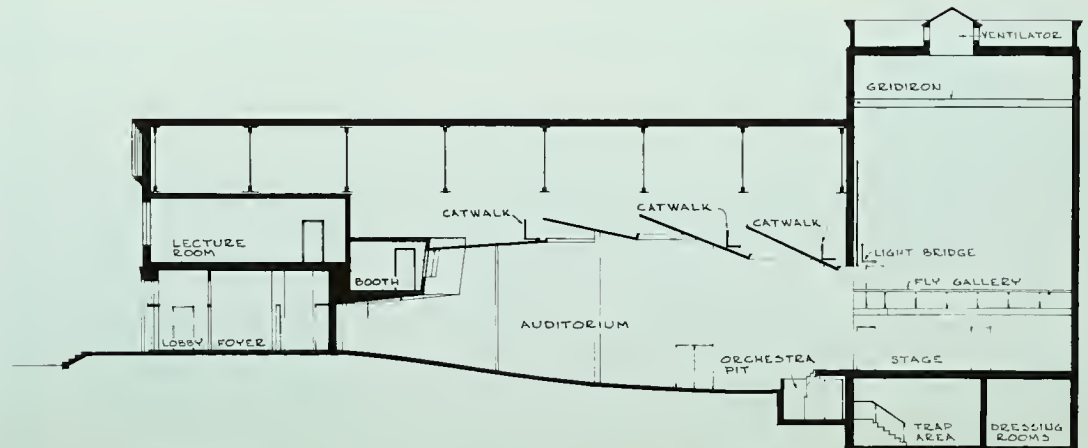
an ideal site . . .

After a careful analysis of all possible sites, the architect recommends that the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center be located just beyond the Gymnasium, on the same side of the road which leads to Monument Hill. This site offers ideal grade and drainage. It utilizes a part of the campus first opened up by the Gymnasium, and avoids the risk of crowding a large building complex into the now spacious quadrangle and cutting off the sweeping view towards the old windbreak and the dell. It also provides a maximum amount of space for parking.

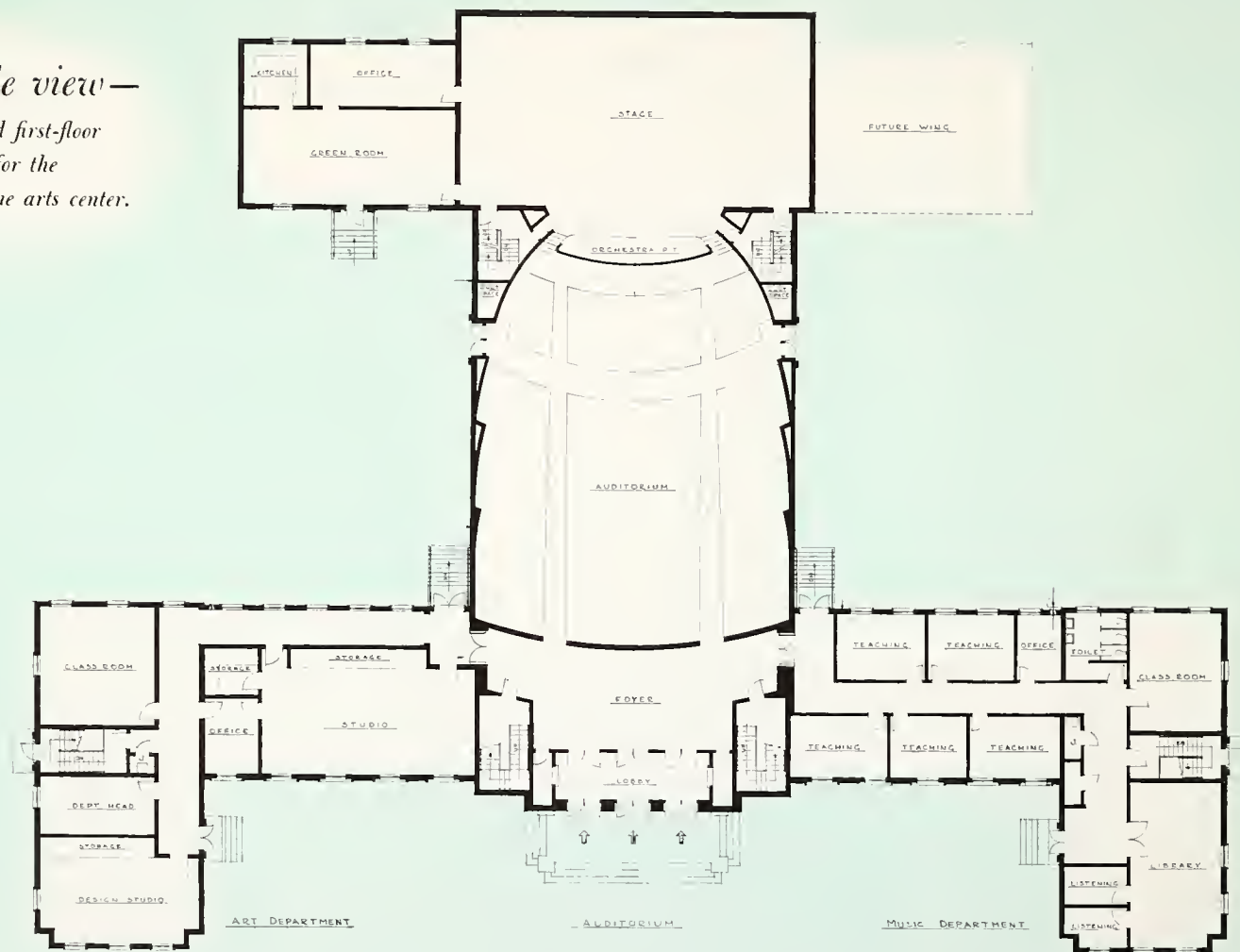


The Auditorium is planned for a seating capacity of between 650 and 700. The contemplated stage has an adequate stage house and is flanked by scene shop and green room.

The architect's suggested plans call for drawing, painting and sculpture studios, classrooms and storage rooms in the Art Wing. A Music Wing of equal size will provide complete, soundproofed facilities for that department. New faculty offices will be located in various parts of the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center.



*an inside view—
a suggested first-floor
plan for the
auditorium-fine arts center.*



\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

how much ?

Five years ago the cost estimate for the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center was \$750,000. Half of that sum—\$375,000—was given by an anonymous Southern Foundation. The college is pledged to raise the other half from other foundations, alumnae, and friends. As of September 1, 1958, a total of \$582,000 had been given to the college, designated for the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center.

The Board of Overseers has set \$750,000 as the “target figure” for this building. But the architect’s preliminary studies indicate that this will be a minimum figure for “a minimum building.” How much more than that amount the building may cost will depend upon the final plans and estimates, as submitted to the Board. How much more than the “minimum building” the Board may be able to approve will depend largely upon how many additional gifts *and pledges* can be added to the present \$582,000.

The answer to this question—of paying for the building—rests with everyone who would like to see Sweet Briar have an Auditorium worthy of the college and meeting its needs, and who will do what they can to make that possible.





to build the auditorium now !

Any family (including a college family) has to use most or all of its income for “current operations.” It may need a new living room rug, or some new furniture (or a new building) pretty badly, yet have to wait a long time for it. The longer it waits, the more it needs that rug, or that couch (or that auditorium). But in the end, the family usually manages by some means, probably involving sacrifice, to buy that extra, expensive item.

Sweet Briar’s family includes its officers, faculty, staff, and students; its alumnae, parents, and “adopted” friends. This family has already given most of the cost of the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center that Sweet Briar needs, has waited long for, and deserves. The college now asks its family to finish the job—“by some means, probably involving sacrifice”—and thus make it possible to build the Auditorium now!

other goals . . .

In Sweet Briar's long-range Development Program, the Auditorium-Fine Arts Center is one of several, equally important goals. The Board of Overseers has voted to complete it first largely because much more has been given for it than for any of the college's other building needs. But gifts for a new Science Building, a Memorial Chapel, or for endowment are also welcome.

the chapel

Although the religious life of the campus has always been a primary concern of the college and a daily source of strength to both students and faculty, Sweet Briar has never had a separate Chapel. The "temporary" Chapel in Manson Hall has served the entire college since 1910. Its seating capacity has long been inadequate for all the students, not to mention other members of the campus community. Its multiple use as concert and lecture hall, movie house, class room and student assembly hall detracts from its use as a place for worship.

The choir, the choir-director, the altar committee, and visiting ministers all suffer even worse discomforts than the congregation. The organ-bellows room and a corridor serve simultaneously as assembly room, office, storage room, and vesting room for both minister and choir. Despite these handicaps, religious services at Sweet Briar are conducted with reverence and meaning. Surely a college which values the spiritual side of life so highly needs a separate Chapel, one in keeping with the Founder's intentions: "It shall be the general scope and object of the school to impart to its students such an education in sound learning, and such physical,

moral, and religious training as shall in the judgment of the Directors best fit them to be useful members of society."

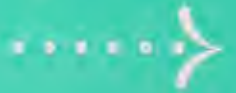
To provide for this need, the Sweet Briar Memorial Chapel Committee seeks from alumnae and other friends of the college—including foundations—memorial gifts which express a threefold devotion: to God, to Sweet Briar College, and to those whose names will be recorded in the Memorial Chapel.

the science building

With the Space Age has come a new awareness of the importance of science. Sweet Briar can make a significant contribution to American science by training more of its students for teaching, for jobs in industrial research laboratories, and for careers in such fields as medicine, nursing, public health, and nutrition. Women's colleges, especially, can supply our schools with science teachers who will motivate their own students to major in science in college and graduate school.

However, Sweet Briar's facilities for instruction in the basic sciences are obsolete and badly crowded. The laboratories in Academic were designed fifty-two years ago. In that time, the whole curriculum in physics, chemistry, and other sciences has undergone drastic changes. Effective teaching in this field is dependent to a much greater degree than in others upon proper laboratory facilities and equipment.

If Sweet Briar is to offer its students the best possible instruction in the physical sciences, it must have a new Science Building. Friends



of the college, including local and national corporations, have given approximately \$150,000 for this purpose to date.

The college has already taken steps to improve the quality of its instruction in the sciences. Gifts made to the college in honor of Dr. Connie M. Guion, chairman of Sweet Briar's Board committee on development, by five members of the Rockefeller family and by Mr. and Mrs. John Hay Whitney have been used at Dr. Guion's request to establish endowed professorships of chemistry and physics. Other generous gifts have been used to modernize present laboratories, and to purchase new equipment and apparatus which can be moved into the new building.

endowment

Sweet Briar's endowment now totals \$2,168,764—more than double what it was before the Half-Century Campaign, but less than half what it ought to be for a college of 500 students. Sweet Briar should have \$10,000 in endowment funds for every student, or a total of \$5-million.

Why? Just to have the money in the bank?

Endowment *income* helps to pay a college's bills. It helps with faculty salaries, with scholarship aid for students, and with the college's food and heat and light and insurance. It also helps to keep the "plant" operating in good condition. As new buildings are added, the bill for maintenance goes up, and the college's endowment must be increased. The new Auditorium-Fine Arts Center will cost money to operate and maintain. That money will have to come from new endowment income; otherwise the college's academic program would suffer.

Gifts for endowment help to support the entire college: to attract and keep the finest teachers, to enable top scholarship students to come here, to support the academic program, and to run the college.



SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

board of overseers

MRS. FRED C. ANDERSEN
Bayport, Minnesota

MR. THOMAS C. BOUSHALL
Richmond, Virginia
President of the Board

MRS. W. L. LYONS BROWN
Harrods Creek, Kentucky

MR. WRIGHT BRYAN
Cleveland, Ohio

MR. HUGH K. DUFFIELD
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MRS. JAMES N. FRAZER
Atlanta, Georgia

MISS META GLASS
Charlottesville, Virginia
President Emeritus of the College

DR. CONNIE M. GUION
New York, New York

MRS. LEONARD M. HORTON
Maplewood, New Jersey
President of the Alumnae Association

MR. ROWLAND LEA
Agricola, Virginia

MR. ADRIAN M. MASSIE
New York, New York

MR. CHARLES H. MURCHISON
Washington, D.C.

MRS. ANNE G. PANNELL
Sweet Briar, Virginia
President of the College

MR. C. RAINE PETTYJOHN
Lynchburg, Virginia

MR. ARCHIBALD G. ROBERTSON
Richmond, Virginia

MRS. W. CLARK SCHMIDT
St. Louis, Missouri

MR. BUFORD SCOTT
Richmond, Virginia

MRS. W. FREDERICK STOHLMAN
Princeton, New Jersey

MR. LAWSON W. TURNER
Forest, Virginia

MR. EDWARD THOMPSON WAILES
Washington, D.C.

MR. GORHAM B. WALKER, JR.
Lynchburg, Virginia

MRS. HERBERT D. WARNER
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

THE RT. REV. RICHARD S. WATSON
Salt Lake City, Utah

MR. JOHN S. ZINSSER
Sweet Briar, Virginia

committee on architectural matters

Mr. Massie, *Chairman*,
Mrs. Brown, Mr. Duffield, Dr. Guion,
Mr. Pettyjohn, Mr. Wailes

campus committee on the auditorium-fine arts center

Mrs. Joseph A. Gilchrist, Jr., *Chairman*, Miss Eleanor
Barton, Mr. Carl Bricken, Miss Elisabeth Chambers, '59,
Mr. Peter V. Daniel, Mr. John H. Detmold, Miss Connie
Fitzgerald, '59.

*an auditorium-
fine arts center
for Sweet Briar*

*the need
the realization
and the means*

